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Subject: Re: Mini-Selection of Cuba Documents

Tom, I received the package of documents including the mini-selection. I quickly went through them and it seems to me that there are several "talking" points: 1. These various plans were not just low level people keeping busy. They involved the JCS, Sec. of Army and Dep. Sec. of Defense. 2. Several documents mention the fact that they are carrying out the wishes of the president - he was not just an onlooker. 3. Although CIA plans have been at least partly known since the Church Commission, this is the first time we have documents illustrating the plans being made in DOD (I think - we may have to hedge here). This is a department that so far has stayed out of the public eye vis-a-vis Cuba. 4. Military more gung-ho than civilian leaders in DOD. Note the way Gilpatrick dismisses some of military planning. 5. Recently some historians have tentatively proposed that Castro was eager to get Missiles because of a genuine fear of American military intervention. In general, this has been dismissed by the Cuban Missile Crisis cottage industry. But the elaborate charts, lengthy papers on military intervention and meetings do indicate that the Kennedy Administration was totally preoccupied with Cuba. The CIA was not always the "rogue elephant" in this story. I'll peruse the FRUS volume tomorrow. It is in my university office and I have several appointments there tomorrow. Anna

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